

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-04

INR-07 IO-11 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 OES-05

SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 CAB-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7569

INFO DOT WASHDC

FAA WASHDC

FAA BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

UNCLAS PARIS 03642

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO CONCORDE DECISION

1. FRENCH PRESS HAS GREETED SECRETARY COLEMAN'S
DECISION ON CONCORDE WITH EVIDENT SATISFACTION,
BUT ENTHUSIASM IS MODERATED BY
RECOGNITION THAT MANY OBSTACLES STILL LIE AHEAD
BEFORE CONCORDE CAN BEGIN OPERATING TO US. FRENCH
RADIO COMMENTATOR PERHAPS BEST SUMMED UP REACTION WHEN
HE SAID DECISION WAS GREETED IN FRANCE WITH "SIGH
OF RELIEF".

2. LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS WRITES THAT COLEMAN
DECISION GOES MUCH FARTHER THAN FRANCE HAD HOPED,
EVEN TAKING ACCOUNT OF RESTRICTIONS ATTACHED TO
AUTHORIZATION. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT US REJECTION
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OF CONCORDE WOULD HAVE BEEN A US AVOWAL OF

"COLONIALIST ATTITUDE" TOWARD EUROPE, WHEREAS COLEMAN DECISION MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A CHANGE IN US-EUROPE RELATIONSHIP AND FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THAT CHANGE. L'HUMANITE WRITES THAT WHATEVER COLEMAN'S MOTIVES MAY HAVE BEEN, HIS DECISION IS A SATISFACTORY ONE--"A VICTORY FOR THE WORKER". CAPTIONS ON LE FIGARO STORIES SUMMARIZE THEIR CONTENT: "A BREACHING OF THE AMERICAN CITADEL", AND "A HALF VICTORY". L'AUREORE WRITES: "THE DOOR IS NOW OPEN. LET'S HOPE NO ONE CLOSES IT. THANK YOU, MR. COLEMAN...FOR HAVING IN YOUR WISDOM BY THIS ACT AVOIDED THE MOST STUPID OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND THE AMERICANS."

3. RADIO, PRESS. AS WELL AS AFP WIRE SERVICE STRESS DANGERS THAT STILL LIE AHEAD AS RESULT OF COURT SUITS IN US AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY OF ANTI-CONCORDE LEGISLATION FROM THE CONGRESS. L'AUREORE GUESSES THAT "IT IS WITH THE CONGRESS THAT MR. COLEMAN WILL HAVE TO FIGHT HIS TOUGHEST BATTLE."

4. LE MONDE DEVOTES EDITORIAL AND ARTICLE ON FRONT PAGE AND OTHER ARTICLES ON INSIDE PAGE TO THE DECISION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "A POLITICAL AIRCRAFT", DWELLS ON BACKGROUND OF CONCORDE PROJECT TO EXPLAIN ITS DIFFICULTIES TODAY RATHER THAN DEVOTING MUCH SPACE TO SIGNIFICANCE OF COLEMAN DECISION. EDITORIAL, AFTER TAKING SWIPE AT US COOLNESS TOWARD FOREIGN-BUILT AIRCRAFT (E.G., COMET, CARAVELLE), ENDS BY NOTING THAT COLEMAN SEEMS NOW TO HAVE OPENED THE DOOR TO TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION ON A SECOND GENERATION SST. SEPARATE ARTICLE NOTES THAT CONCORDE ACCESS TO JFK REMAINS "PROBLEMATICAL".
RUSH

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